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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Koethen Airfield

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 3 November 1954 25X1

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 3 and 9 October 1954, it appeared that the occupation by aircraft and personnel at Koethen airfield increased, probably in connection with fall maneuvers held in the vicinity.

3 October. Between 1030 and 1200, there was no flying at the field. Five MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s with dismantled elevator and rudder assemblies were parked in front of the eastern hangars.

4 October. At 1230, there was no flying. Aircraft parked at the field included 14 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s in front of the eastern hangars; 14 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s facing toward the west in front of the aircraft revetments on the northeastern edge of the field on both sides of the taxiway; 12 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s facing toward the east and arranged in a row on the landing field along the taxiway.

Four MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s with their crews were seen at the eastern end of the runway.

Between the aircraft revetments near there, a tank truck and an equipment truck were seen. Five MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s which were partly obstructed from view were parked in front of the western hangar. It was not clearly determined whether these MiGs were aircraft or dummies. At 1330, one MiG-15 or U-MiG-15 took off and headed toward the east. ¹

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2. There was no change in the location of the radio and radar installations between the fence and the aircraft revetments at the southern edge of the field. A radio truck with umbrella-shaped antenna was parked near the new building in the southeastern corner of the field. A two-axle truck with glass cupola was parked between the taxiway and the aircraft revetments in the northeastern corner of the field. This truck had large windows on its sidewalls which made it possible to look through the vehicle from the street. A glass cupola which possible was octangular and measured about 1 meter in diameter and 50 cm in height, was fitted on the roof of the truck. No personnel was observed in the cupola. The truck had 2 rod antennas, one about 2.5 meters high, the other about 1.5 meters high. ²
3. All gaps in the fence around the field had been filled. For about a week, Soviet patrols were seen at day and night in the town of Koethen.

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4. The following air activity and aircraft were observed:

7 October. Between 1030 and 1100, a total of 37 MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were counted at the field, including 6 in the southeastern corner and 31 in two rows along the eastern taxiway north of the runway. A radio truck with a rod antenna 2 to 3 meters high and a radio installation with one mast about 12 meters high were seen at the take-off point. Another radio installation with one mast was located in the southeastern corner of the field. The mast was about 12 meters high and was braced in three places.

9 October. Fifteen MiG-15s or U-MiG-15s were counted at the field. They included 9 in front of the eastern hangars, 4 about 100 meters south of the western hangars and 2 in the southeastern corner of the field.

At 0930, one two-seater MiG-15 taxied from the western hangar to the take-off point and subsequently took off toward the west for a flight of about 20 minutes at an altitude of about 2,000 meters. After landing the crew of two men was exchanged at the take-off point and after about 15 minutes the aircraft took off again. Until 1530, the aircraft took off repeatedly for training flights. No other flying was practiced. Aircraft dummies which previously had been at the field were no longer there. 1

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5. There was no change in the status of radio and radar installations at the field. The Kniferest-type and the Fishnet-type radar sets were not seen in operation.

6. The AA gun emplacement in the southeastern corner of the field was still occupied by 6 x 37-mm AA guns. Truck entered the field. On 9 October, a group of 40 soldiers practiced firing with carbines at landscape targets in the northeastern corner of the field.

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1. Comment. It is believed that Koethen airfield is still occupied by one fighter regiment and one reconnaissance regiment equipped with MiG-15s. U-MiG-15 was reported from Laerz in 1953; it was observed at Koethen for the first time.

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2. Comment. Trucks with glass cupola are standard equipment of airfields for the flight control at take-off points.

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